

2011 REDISTRICTING CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES

Legal Standards

1. The County of San Diego is divided into five legally apportioned districts. (San Diego County Charter Section 400.)
2. The principal legal standard governing county supervisorial redistricting is the equal protection rule that requires supervisorial districts to be as nearly equal in total population as possible. This requirement is based in federal law, as well as California Elections Code § 21500.
3. The area of at least two supervisorial districts shall be as substantially outside the City of San Diego as the population will permit. (San Diego County Charter Section 400.1.)
4. In creating district boundaries, the Board of Supervisors may give consideration to the following factors: (a) topography; (b) geography; (c) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity and compactness of territory; and (d) community of interests of the districts. (Elections Code § 21500.)
5. District boundaries shall also comply with the federal Voting Rights Act, as amended.
6. Elections Code § 21501 requires that redistricting be completed no later than November 1, 2011. However, to provide the Registrar of Voters adequate lead time, while accounting for any unforeseen circumstances, and establish the new districts as far in advance as practicable of the 2012 statewide primary to the benefit of affected voters, it is the intent of the Board of Supervisors to adopt a redistricting plan no later than August 2011.
7. The Board of Supervisors must hold at least one public hearing on any proposed redistricting plan prior to the public hearing at which the Board of Supervisors votes to approve or defeat the proposal. (Elections Code § 21500.1.)

Guidelines

1. With the exception of the City of San Diego and to the extent possible, individual cities will not be divided between districts.
2. Where possible, dividing census tracts will be avoided.